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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC No. 04150-85
19 August 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: [Redacted]
Assistant National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT: New IG on Military Liaison Missions

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1. On 16 August, NSC staffer Douglas Doan informed an ad hoc working group that Mr. McFarlane soon will create an IG on operational SOPs for the military liaison missions in Germany. His intention is to use the group to formulate a response to Senator Warner, who wishes to propose a formal agreement with the Soviets on "ground rules of engagement" for the MLMs that would be similar to the Incidents at Sea agreement he negotiated with the Soviets while Secretary of the Navy. (The Senator sent a three page letter to President Reagan on this new idea. It is not yet available to the IG members.)

2. The working group met to make suggestions regarding talking points for Mr. Farlane to give Senator Warner before he departs on a CODEL to Moscow in late August. The NSC Staff prefers that Senator Warner only raise the MLM issue in general and the Major Nicholson case with his Soviet interlocutors. (The latter will remain unnamed until the last moment but could include Gorbachev.) The working group made numerous suggestions in paring down the first draft to four key points (see attachment) which skirt the "rules of procedure" proposal.

3. The working group -- including reps from the JCS and State and experts from EURA and SOVA -- argued that the Warner-proposed agreement might set back informal military to military talks in Potsdam which are making progress toward an improved environment for MLM patrols. We also pointed out the extremely complex context for such an agreement including

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-- the risk of spill-over to other Berlin related issues

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In addition, the possibility of the proposal being drawn into the European Security CBMs process also was briefly discussed.

4. The bottom line, however, is that an IG will be formally convened -- probably sometime in early September -- to deal with Senator Warner's proposal.

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Talking Points

1. The United States is deeply disturbed about recent action Soviet soldiers against the members of the Military Liaison Missions of the US, UK and France.
2. Improvements in the training and discipline of Soviet troops would help avoid future acts of brutality such as the murder Maj Nicholson and the injury of Colonel Lajoie.
3. The United States believes that the Soviet Union should immediately apologize for the killing of Major Nicholson and provide compensation to his family. This issue cannot be closed until this occurs.
4. We have a long way to go toward creating a safer environment. We believe that the informal US/Soviet military to military talks are helping to create a safer environment.

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